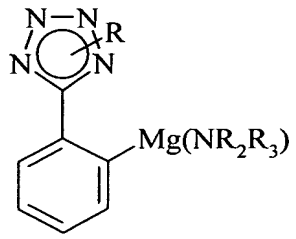
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein,

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group, and a salifying group, and

R_2 and R_3 are one of (i) the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of a straight or a branched C_1-C_6 alkyl group, a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group, and a trialkylsilyl group and (ii) taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are linked form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur ~~R, R_2 and R_3 are as defined in claim 1~~.

12. (currently amended) ~~A compound as defined in which is, which is:~~ The compound according to claim 11, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

• 2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide;

• 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide; [[or]] and

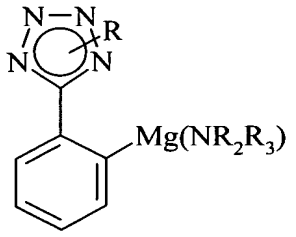
• 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide.

13. (currently amended) A method of ~~using a compound of formula (V) for the preparation of~~ preparing a compound of formula (I) from a compound of formula (V), comprising:

~~preparing the compound of formula (I) from the compound of formula (V), wherein,~~

reacting the compound of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) to form a compound of formula (II),

the compound of formula (V) being



(V)

where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group, and a salifying group, and R_2 and R_3 are one of (i) the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of a straight or a branched C_1-C_6 alkyl group, a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group, and a trialkylsilyl group and (ii) taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are linked form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur,

the compound of formula (VI) being

$$ZnX_2 \quad (VI)$$

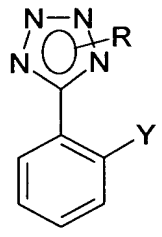
where X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine,

the compound of formula (VIa) being

$$B(OR'_4)_3 \quad (VIa)$$

where each R'_4 is independently a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, and

the compound of formula (II) being



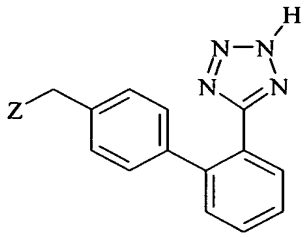
(II)

where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group and a salifying group, Y is one of (i) a -ZnX group and (ii) a $-B(OR_4)_2$, X is a halogen atom selected from the

group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine, and each R'_4 is independently a C_1-C_6 alkyl group;

optionally hydrolyzing the resulting bornic ester of formula (II); and

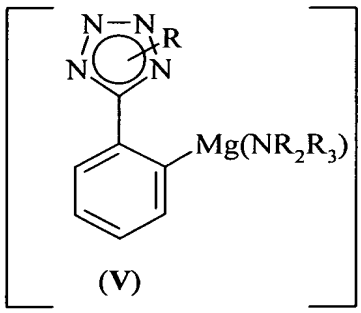
producing the compound of formula (I) from the compound of formula (II), the compound of formula (I) [[is]] being



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where Z is one of(i)an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one nitrogen atom and (ii) an amido residue,

~~the compound of formula (V) is~~



(V)

~~where R is hydrogen, a protecting group or a salifying group, and R_2 and R_3, are one of (i)the same or different, are straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, trialkylsilyl, and (ii) taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, form a~~

~~saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur~~.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein in the compound of formula (I) the residue Z is selected from:

2-butyl-4-chloro-5-hydroxymethyl-imidazol-1-yl;

2-ethoxy-7-carboxy-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl;

2-butyl-1,3-diaza-spiro[4,4]non-1-en-4-on-3-yl; and

(S)-N-(1-carboxy-2-methylprop-1-yl)-N-pentanoylamino.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method of ~~using a compound of formula (V) for the preparation of~~ preparing a compound of formula (I) from a compound of formula (V), comprising:

~~preparing the compound of formula (I) from the compound of formula (V), wherein,~~

reacting the compound of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) to form a compound of formula (II),

the compound of formula (V) being selected from the group consisting of: 2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl

magnesium diisopropylamide, 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide, and 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide,

the compound of formula (VI) being

$$ZnX_2 \quad (VI)$$

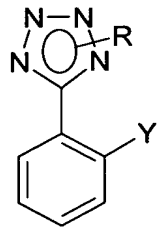
where X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine,

the compound of formula (VIa) being

$$B(OR'_4)_3 \quad (VIa)$$

where each R'_4 is independently a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, and

the compound of formula (II) being



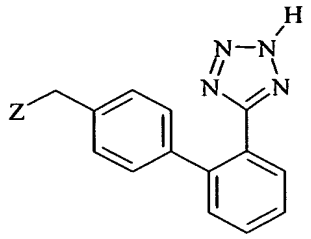
(II)

where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group and a salifying group, Y is one of (i) a -ZnX group and (ii) a $-B(OR_4)_2$, X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine, and each R'_4 is independently a C_1-C_6 alkyl group;

optionally hydrolyzing the resulting bornic ester of formula (II); and

producing the compound of formula (I) from the

compound of formula (II), the compound of formula (I) [[is]] being



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where Z is one of(i)an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one nitrogen atom and (ii) an amido residue~~, and~~

~~the compound of formula (V) is selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide, 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide, and 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide~~.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the reaction of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) is carried out at a stoichiometric ratio from 1.0 to 5.0 of [[a]] the one of compound of formula (VI) [[or]] and the compound of (VIa) to [[a]] the compound of formula (V) ~~ranges from 1.0 to 5.0~~.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the stoichiometric ratio ~~of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges~~ is from 1.1 to 3.0.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the reaction of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) is carried out in an ether solvent or mixtures thereof with an apolar solvent, at a temperature ranging from 20°C to the reflux temperature.